

CLAIMS

1. A method for separating at least one small defined volume of a liquid sample from a relatively large undefined volume of said sample, characterized by the steps of:

5 - providing in a surface of a first body at least one cavity having said small defined volume;

- applying said relatively large volume of said sample onto said surface and into said at least one cavity;

10 - relatively moving said first body and a scraper means so that said scraper means passes said at least one cavity, thereby scraping a volume of said relatively large volume from said surface and leaving said small defined volume in said at least one cavity.

15 2. The method according to claim 1, characterized in that said edge is an edge of a second body slidable relative to said first body.

20 3. The method according to claim 1, characterized in that before said relatively large volume of said sample is applied to said surface it is applied to a sample receiving surface.

4. The method according to claim 3, characterized in that said relatively large volume of said sample is applied to said surface by bringing said sample receiving surface in contact with said surface.

25 5. The method according to claim 1 for diluting said defined volume of said sample, characterized by the step of bringing said small defined volume in contact with a flow of diluting fluid passing said at least one cavity.

6. A sample volume defining device for separating at least one small defined volume of a liquid sample from a relatively large undefined volume of said sample, said device including a first body (10; 27; 36; 46) and a second body (14; 25; 40; 50; 57; 70) movable relative to one another,

characterized in

- that said first body (10; 27; 36; 46) has at least one cavity (12; 30; 39; 49) in a surface (11; 28; 37; 47) thereof, said at least one cavity having said defined volume; and

- that said second body (14; 25; 40; 50; 57; 70) includes an edge (15; 31; 41; 52; 57'; 70') slidable along said surface and over said cavity upon relative movement of said bodies,

- the arrangement being such that an excessive volume of said undefined volume of said sample - upon depositing said undefined volume of said sample on said surface - is separated from said undefined volume upon said relative movement, thereby leaving within said cavity a volume of said sample equal to said defined volume.

7. The device according to claim 6, characterized in that said edge is an edge (15) of the other of said bodies (14).

8. The device according to claim 6, characterized in that said edge is an edge (57') of a sealing means (57) carried by the other of said bodies (14').

9. The device according to claim 8, characterized in that the other said bodies carries said sealing means (57) in a surface thereof facing said surface of said first body (10).

10. The device according to claim 9, characterized in that said sealing means has an aperture located opposite to said cavity (12) in a defined relative sliding position of said two bodies.

5 11. The device according to claim 10, characterized in that a portion of said sealing means (57) located between said aperture and said edge (57') thereof has a width exceeding that of said cavity (12).

10 12. The device according to any one of claims 6 - 11 adapted for diluting said small defined volume of said sample, characterized by means (19, 20) for directing a liquid (25) into and out of said cavity (12).

15 13. The device according to claim 12, characterized in that said means include conduit means opposed to said at least one cavity (12) in a defined relative sliding position of said bodies (10, 14; 10, 57).

20 14. The device according to claim 13, characterized in that said conduit means include first channel means (19) directed towards said cavity (12) and second channel means (20) directed therefrom.

25 15. The device according to claim 14, characterized by first receptacle means (23) for a liquid connected to said first conduit means (19, 21) and second receptacle means (24) for diluted sample connected to said second conduit means (20, 22).

16. The device according to any one of claims 6 - 15, particularly for performing blood analysis, characterized by two cavities (29, 30) having different volumes.